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S/N 10/718,136

PATENTIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	HASHI ET AL.	Examiner:	UNKNOWN
Serial No.:	10/718,136	Group Art Unit:	UNKNOWN
Filed:	NOVEMBER 20, 2003	Docket No.:	10873.694USC2
Title:	MAGNETIC TRANSFER METHOD AND MAGNETIC TRANSFER APPARATUS		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: , Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on January 23, 2004.

By:

Name: Andrea Endris

PETITION TO MAKE SPECIAL PURSUANT TO 37 CFR 1.102

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully petition that the examination of the above-captioned application be expedited because claims of the patent application filed on the same date herewith are allowable over the references found in the international search report from the priority PCT application. The petition fee of \$130.00 set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(h), pursuant to 37 CFR 1.102(d), is enclosed herewith. The claims of the application filed herewith are directed to a single invention.

A Search of the Prior Art has been Conducted.

A search was conducted by the Japanese Patent Office in the priority PCT application for references relevant to the claimed invention. Copies of all references found in the search have been submitted in an Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith.

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The Claimed Subject Matter is Patentable over the Prior Art References.

The following detailed discussion of three "A" references in the international search report points out with particularity (required by 37 CFR 1.111 (b) and (c)) how the claimed subject matter is patentable over the Prior Art references.

JP11-25455

This reference discloses a magnetic transfer method and a method of cleaning fine dust from surfaces of the master and slave disk. JP11-25455 discloses a master disc coupled to a slave disc, and application of pressurized air at a center of the master disc through a channel formed in the master disc adjacent to the slave disc primary surface such that the air is forced out between the discs to remove dust on the disc surfaces. After removal of the dust, the master and slave discs are brought into contact with each other under a vacuum pressure and magnetic transfer is conducted.

JP11-25455 fails to disclose or suggest detecting defects in the surface of a cleaning disc, a detection disc, a magnetic transfer master disc, or a magnetic disc (slave disc), or performing a magnetic transfer step, a cleaning step, or a detecting step in response to results of the defect detection step as required by claims 8-20. Therefore, claims 8-20 are allowable over JP11-25455.

WO 00/65580

This reference has a filing date of April 25, 2000, which filing date is later than the priority date of the present application established by the verified English translation of priority Japanese Patent Application No. 2000-97308, which translation is submitted herewith. Therefore, WO 00/65580 is not proper prior art.

WO 00/65579

This reference has a filing date of April 26, 2000, which filing date is later than the priority date of the present application established by the verified English translations of priority Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-97308 and 2000-125744, which translations are submitted herewith. Therefore, WO 00/65579 is not proper prior art.

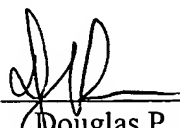
Conclusion

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-20 are allowable over the references found in the international search report for at least the reasons set forth above. Consideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Date: January 23, 2004

By: 

Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No. 30,300
DPM/JNR:ae



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: HASHI ET AL. Examiner: UNKNOWN
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By: Andrea L. Endris

Name: Andrea Endris

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Sir:

We are transmitting herewith the attached:

- ☒ Transmittal Sheet in duplicate containing Certificate of Mailing
- ☒ Petition to Make Special Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.102
- ☒ Check(s) in the amount of \$130 is enclosed for the Petition to Make Special
- ☒ Verified English translations of Japanese Patent Application Nos. 2000-97308, and 2000-125744
- ☒ Return postcard

Please consider this a PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME for a sufficient number of months to enter these papers or any future reply, if appropriate. Please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2725. A duplicate of this sheet is enclosed.

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By: Douglas P. Mueller
Name: Douglas P. Mueller
Reg. No.: 30,300
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